

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3531

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2814

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, BE, NATO, GW, NL, IT, FR

SUBJECT: BELGIAN-SPANISH TALKS

REF: MADRID 2011 (NOTAL)

1. WE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN AFFAIRS LEJEUNE MARCH 28 TO DISCUSS VISIT TO BRUSSELS OF SPANISH DELEGATION HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLICY LOS ARCOS AND DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPE AGUIRRE DE CARCER MARCH 21. LEJEUNE POINTED OUT THAT BELGIAN AND SPANISH POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAVE BEEN EXCHNAGING VISITS APPROXIMATELY ANNUALLY FOR LAST THREE YEARS. IT HAD BEEN MORE THAN YEAR SINCE LAST MEETING, AND SPANISH SOUGHT TO RENEW CONTACT. TOUR ALSO INCLUDED STOPS AT THE HAGUE, PARIS, ROME AND BONN.

2. ACCORDING TO LEJEUNE, VISIT HAD NO SPECIFIC
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AIM EXCEPT GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND, FOR SPANISH, TO

MAINTAIN "VISIBILITY" BEFORE OTHER EUROPEANS GOVERNMENTS. LEJEUNE SAID DISCUSSIONS WERE "ACADEMIC." DOING MOST OF TALKING, BELGIAN POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON PRESENTED BELGIAN VIEWS ON CSCE, EASE-WEST RELATION, PORTUGAL, MIDDLE EAST, AND CYPRUS. LOS ARCOS RECIPROCATED BY OUTLINING SPANISH APPROACH TO MANY OF THESE AREAS. GOING INTO SPECIFICS ONLY ON PORTUGAL, LEJEUNE NOTED THAT SPANISH WERE RELATIVELY RELAXED ABOUT SITUATION THERE, AND DID NOT BELIEVE THAT REGIME WOULD DRIFT TOO FAR LEFT. THEY WERE SKEPTICAL, HOWEVER, ABOUT HOW REPRESENTATIVE PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS WOULD BE, BECAUSE OF FEAR AMONG VOTERS, AND DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT RESULTS WOULD BE FIXED. SPANISH ALSO SAW SOVIETS AS TRYING TO GAIN FAVOR OF AFM IN LOW KEY MANNER RATHER THAN TRYING SPECTACULAR MOVE TO EXPLOIT SITUATION.

3. LEJEUNE SAID THAT MAJOR THRUST OF SPANISH APPROACH DURING TALKS WAS THAT ALTHOUGH SPAIN IS NOT MEMBER OF MAJOR WESTERN INSTITUTIONS IT IS STILL SOLIDLY PART OF WEST. BELGIANS INFERRED THAT SPANISH WERE TACITLY PRESENTING LINE THAT IF PORTUGAL SHOULD DEFECT FROM WEST, SPAIN WOULD BE LOGICAL CANDIDATE TO REPLACE IT. AS NOTED REFTTEL, LOS ARCOS DID NOT SPECIFICALLY RAISE QUESTION OF SPANISH ASSOCIATION WITH NATO. NEITHER DID HE DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS WITH US ON BASES IN SPAIN OR SPANISH RELATIONS WITH EC, ACCORDING TO LEJEUNE.

4. LEJEUNE SAID BELGIANS PREFERRED NOT TO PUBLICIZE MEETING AND HAD NOT INFORMED EC-9 PARTNERS OF CONTENTS OF DISCUSSION. FIRESTONE

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